with Kuwait through their twice weekly services on the sector Hyderabad-Ahmedabad-Kuwait.

Privatisation of non-operational airports in A.P.

2083. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that airports at Donakonda, Cuddapah and Warrangal in Andhra Pradesh are non-operational and State Government has no interest in these airports;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to privatise these airports for aviation activities; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Airports in Donakonda, Cuddapah and Warrangal in Andhra Pradesh are non-operational. In 1998, the Airports Authority of India had suggested to the State Government to take over these airports on mutually agreed terms and conditions. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has appointed M/s L&T Ramboll for preparation of feasibility report on the integrated development of small airports in Andhra Pradesh.

Purchase of less fuel consuming aircrafts

†2084. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the aircrafts committee constituted by the Indian Airlines has given any suggestion for procuring aircrafts consuming less fuel for the low cost flights;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian Airlines has prepared any cost details regarding the possibility of operating low tariff flights to promote air travel and to utilise additional capacity;

(d) if so, whether Indian Airlines will shortly introduce "no-frills and low tariff flights"; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the details of such flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) On the basis of the techno-economic evaluation report of the Aircraft Evaluation Committee and the recommendations of the Board Sub-Committee, the Board of Directors of Indian Airlines in its meeting held on 27.3.2002 have approved a proposal for acquisition of 43 aircrafts *i.e.* 19 A-319, 4 A-320 and 20 A-321 aircrafts installed with CFM-56 engines at a net project cost of Rs. 10,089 crores. Fuel efficiency was one of the factors that were taken into consideration in making techno-economic evaluation. The Project Report submitted by Indian Airlines is under active consideration of the Government.

(c) to (e) Indian Airlines has no plans to introduce "no-frills and low tariff flights". However, in response to market requirements, Indian Airlines introduces promotional fares on its domestic network from time to time. The level of fare reduction varies from sector to sector and season to season depending on various market factors. The market factors include seasonality, strength of Indian Airlines versus competitors, supply demand equation etc.

Upgradation of airports in Tripura

2085. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the NEC has decided to operate small aircrafts linking important towns of the North-Eastern region;

(b) if so, the number of services in the region and of these which will be undertaken in near future;

(c) what measures have been taken to upgrade the airports of Kamalpur, Kailasahar, Dharam Nagar and other airports in some sub-divisional towns of Tripura;

(d) whether there is a proposal to extend short services of aircrafts to link more important towns of Tripura; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. The proposal is in planning stage.